

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 L-03
FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AGRE-00 AID-05
CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02
SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /115 W
-----088435 030009Z /75

R 021314Z MAR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6667
INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EPAP, XX
SUBJECT: UNCTAD THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING ON NATURAL
RUBBER (NR

REFERENCE: 1) STATE 44156, 2) GENEVA 3285

1. SUMMARY: AT THE UNCTAD THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING ON
NATURAL RUBBER, FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 1, CONSUMING COUNTRIES
UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO JOIN PRODUCERS IN NEGOTIATION OF AN
INTERNATIONAL NATURAL RUBBER PRICE STABILIZATION AGREEMENT
BASED UPON TERMS OF REFERENCE AGREED AT DECEMBER TASK FORCE
MEETING. THE AGREED SCHEDULE FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS
INCLUDES A MEETING-WORKSHOP IN KUALA LUMPUR IN MAY TO VISIT
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RUBBER PRODUCTION/MARKETING FACILITIES AND TO DISCUSS
ELEMENTS OF A NATURAL RUBBER AGREEMENT, ONE OR TWO CONSUMER
MEETINGS TO COORDINATE ELABORATION OF A CONSUMER DRAFT
PROPOSAL OR PROPOSALS BY MID-JULY, A CONSUMER-PRODUCER
DRAFTING GROUP IN SEPTEMBER AND THE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE
IN LATE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER. THE US WAS ABLE TO REBUFF
ATTEMPTS BY PRODUCERS AND MOST CONSUMERS TO HAVE THE UNCTAD

SECRETARIAT ASSUME A ROLE IN DRAFTING AN INITIAL TEXT FOR THE NEGOTIATION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST DAY OF THE MEETING SAW THE MAJOR CONSUMING COUNTRIES ANNOUNCE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO JOIN A NEGOTIATION AND THE PRODUCERS EXPRESSING SATISFACTION AT THIS RESULT. THE REMAINING TWO DAYS FOCUSED ON THE SCHEDULE AND STRUCTURE OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, WITH THE ONLY REAL DISAGREEMENT CENTERING AROUND THE ROLE OF THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT IN PREPARING A TEXT OR TEXTS FOR THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

3. AGREEMENT WAS REACHED QUICKLY THAT THE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE WOULD BE HELD IN LATE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER PRECEDED BY A SEPTEMBER PRODUCER/CONSUMER DRAFTING GROUP WHICH WOULD BE CHARGED WITH PRODUCING THE BASIC WORKING TEXT FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS, SUITABLY BRACKETED TO REFLECT DIFFERING VIEWS.

4. ACCORDING TO THE AGREED RECOMMENDATIONS, PREPARATION FOR THE FALL MEETINGS WILL BEGIN IN APRIL WITH PRODUCERS TO CIRCULATE A REVISED TEXT OF THEIR PROPOSED PRICE STABILIZATION SCHEME. IN MAY, A MEETING/WORKSHOP AMONG PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS WILL BE HELD IN KUALA LUMPUR TO EXAMINE RUBBER PRODUCTION AND MARKETING/TRADING FACILITIES AND TO DISCUSS ELEMENTS OF AN AGREEMENT. CONSUMERS WILL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HOLD ONE OR MORE MEETINGS TO COORDINATE A CONSUMER PROPOSAL OR PROPOSALS TO BE PRESENTED TO THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT BY JULY 15 FOR CIRCULATION TO PRODUCERS. IN A CAUCUS AFTER THE FINAL PLENARY, CONSUMERS AGREED TO RECOMMEND AT THE UPCOMING AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING THAT THE CONSUMER MEETINGS, IF POSSIBLE, BE CONVENED IN GENEVA DURING THE WEEKS OF JUNE 5-9 AND JULY 3-7. THE CONSUMER DRAFT OR DRAFTS WHICH EMERGE FROM THESE MEETINGS AND THE PRODUCER PROPOSAL WOULD BE THE DOCUMENTS THE SEPTEMBER DRAFTING MEETING WOULD USE TO PRODUCE A WORKING TEXT FOR THE NEGOTIATING CONFERENCE.

5. THE PRODUCERS FIRST PROPOSED THE IDEA OF THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY TO CONSTRUCT A DRAFT OF AN AGREEMENT BASED UPON THE PREVIOUSLY TABLED PRODUCER PROPOSAL AND THE COMMENTS OF CONSUMERS DURING THE FOUR PREVIOUS UNCTAD MEETINGS ON NATURAL RUBBER. THIS DRAFT WOULD BE USED AS A BASIS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS. THE NORDIC COUNTRIES AND PRC SUPPORTED THIS SUGGESTION. THE EC AGREED THAT THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD DRAFT AN INITIAL DOCUMENT, BUT THAT IT SHOULD ONLY INCLUDE A FRAMEWORK OF AN AGREEMENT AND SHOULD NOT GO BEYOND THE

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TASK FORCE IN SPELLING OUT THE MAJOR PROVISIONS. THE US OPPOSED HAVING THE SECRETARIAT DRAW UP ANY INITIAL DOCUMENT ARGUING THAT SINCE CONSUMER VIEWS HAVE NOT YET BEEN FORMULATED THEY COULD IN NO WAY BE REFLECTED IN SUCH A PAPER. INTENSIVE US LOBBYING SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING THE EC, NORDICS AND THE PRODUCERS TO BACK OFF THEIR POSITION AND TO ACCEPT RECOMMENDATIONS OUTLINED ABOVE WHICH PROVIDE THE SECRETARIAT WITH NO SUBSTANTIVE ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS.

6. AGREED CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE TRANSMITTED REFTEL. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRADE, RUBBER, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, PRICES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA03286
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780096-0671
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197803116/aaaadufx.tel
Line Count: 127
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 28e53dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 44156, 78 GENEVA 3285
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3144650
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UNCTAD THIRD PREPARATORY MEETING ON NATURAL RUBBER (NR
TAGS: ETRD, EPAP, PORO, XX, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/28e53dba-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014